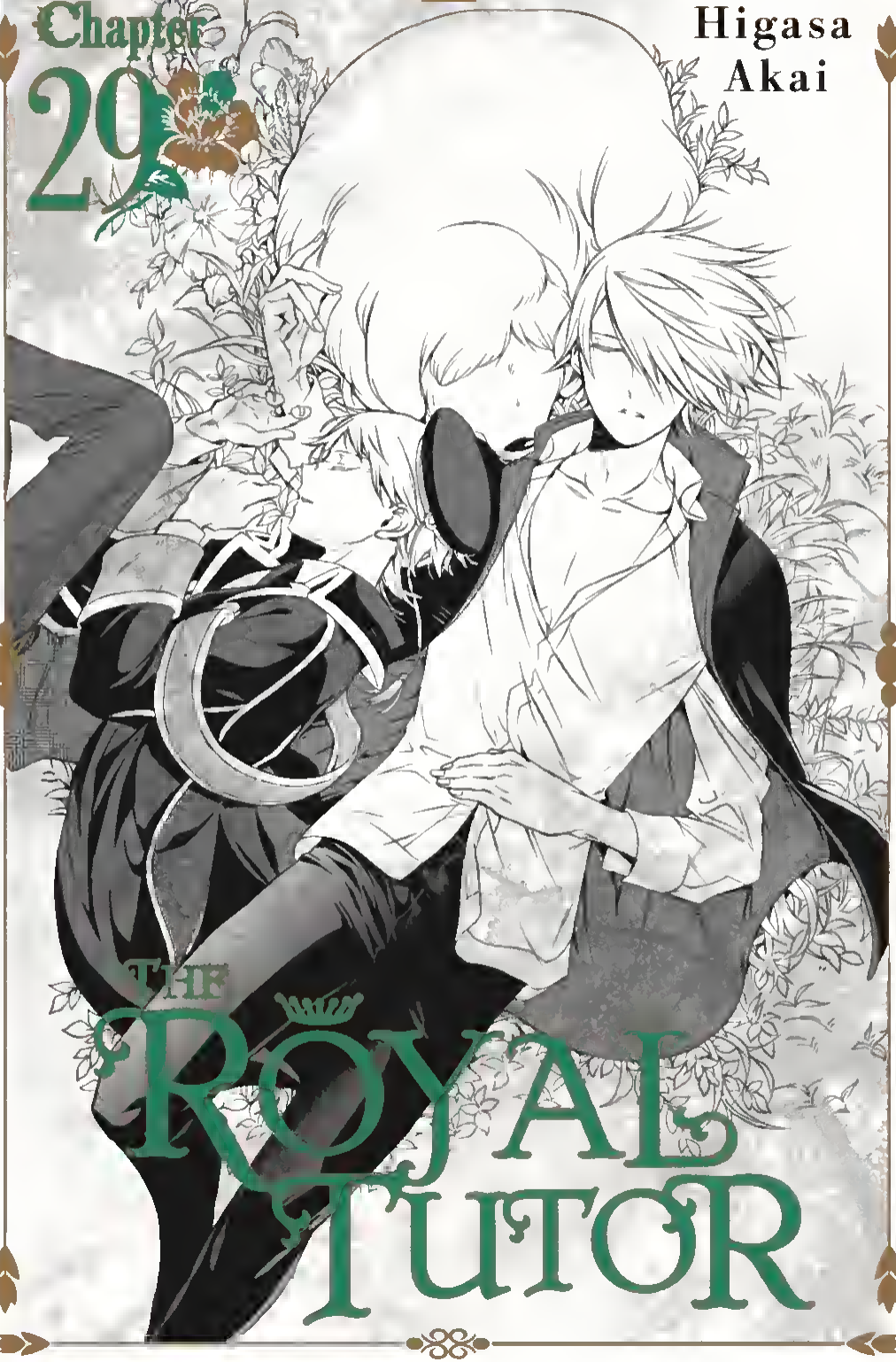
Chapter 29

Higasa Akai



THE ROYAL TUTOR

Chapter 29

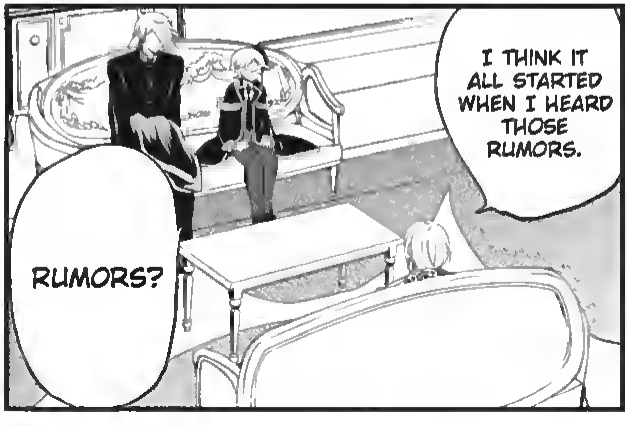
Future Salvation

OOH!
OH, MY STARS! YOUR MANSION'S AS MAJESTIC ON THE INSIDE AS IT IS ON THE OUTSIDE!
MY FAMILY IS AWAY AT PRESENT, SO...
SHUT

HE FOUGHT WITH PRINCE KAI AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXPELLED FROM MILITARY ACADEMY...
THIS BOY FUCHS...THE STUDENT WHO ATTACKED PRINCE BRUNO...
HUH? WASN'T LUDWIG SUPPOSED TO BE WAITING FOR US INSIDE?
HE NEEDED TO FRESHEN UP AND LEFT WITH A SERVANT.
.....
HE LOOKS TO BE A RATHER SUBDUED YOUNG MAN TO MY EYES...
LET ME SEE... WILL YOU BE PLAYING IN THE GARDEN?
HERE. YOU MAY PLAY WITH ONE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER'S TOYS.
HRMPH
I AM A GROWN MAN AND A TEACHER.
WHA ...!?
THAT'S OUR PROFESSOR.
ALWAYS BEING MISTAKEN FOR A CHILD ....

NOW, WE WISH TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

.....
...BUT TO ATTACK PRINCE BRUNO. WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THIS?
AT THE DOOR, YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD "LITTLE OTHER CHOICE"...


RUMORS?
I THINK IT ALL STARTED WHEN I HEARD THOSE RUMORS.

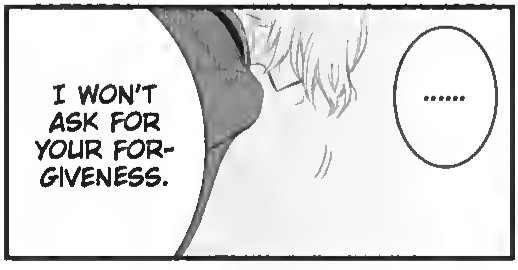
SQUEEZE
.....
I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT... I...
I FELT AS THOUGH I COULD DO NOTHING ELSE... THAT IS...

!
THAT ROYALS DO WHATEVER THEY PLEASE AT THE ACADEMY AND ARE NEVER DISCIPLINED FOR IT.
THAT THEY ARE PLACED AT THE HEAD OF THEIR CLASS NO MATTER WHAT GRADES THEY TRULY EARN.
IT IS TRUE THAT HE...HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE BRUNO, WAS THE TOP STUDENT IN HIS CLASS.
AND I'D NEVER SEEN AN INSTRUC-TOR REBUKE HIM...
THAT'S BECAUSE... BRUNO IS SMART AND ALWAYS MINDFUL OF HIS CONDUCT...
AND I WAS NEVER THE TOP STUDENT IN MY CLASS...
I KNEW THAT...THAT THEY WERE ONLY RUMORS.
BUT...

EVEN THE INSTRUCTORS HELD BACK AROUND PRINCE BRUNO.
HE MIGHT NOT HAVE REALIZED IT, BUT EVERY-ONE ELSE SAW IT.
...BECAUSE HE GREW UP WITH A SUPERIOR EDUCATION IN THE FIRST PLACE...!
...BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, PRINCE BRUNO WAS ONLY ABLE TO REACH THE TOP OF HIS CLASS...

UNTIL WE...

AS MY FRIENDS AND I WERE DISCUSS-ING IT...
...WE GOT MORE AND MORE RILED UP.
.....


I WON'T ASK FOR YOUR FOR-GIVENESS.
.....

I'M SORRY.
I COULD NEVER APOLOGIZE ENOUGH.
.....
...PRINCE KAI...
...I'M SORRY...
...I AM TOO.
IT WAS WRONG TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE.

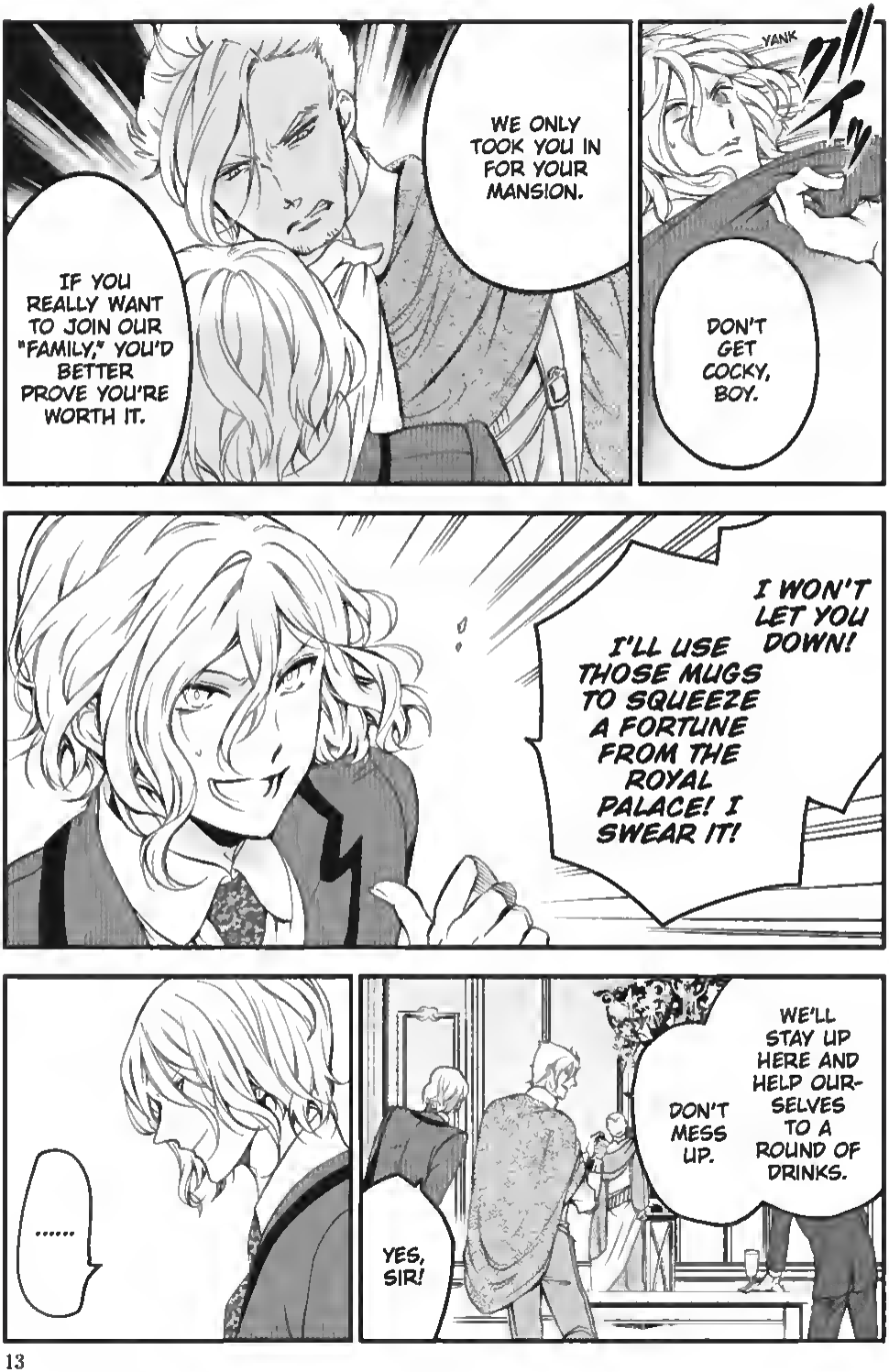
.....?
A PAPER FROM THIS MORNING...
...HAS AN ARTICLE... ABOUT THE INCI-DENT...
...DO YOU KNOW... ABOUT THIS...?
SHFF
...WH-WHY, THIS IS ALL NONSENSE!
...I...
...WANT THEM TO CORRECT THE LIES IN THIS ARTICLE.
I TURNED HIM AWAY. I HAD NO IDEA HE'D DONE THIS...
I REMEMBER NOW... A REPORTER CAME BY THREE DAYS OR SO AGO.
HE SAID HE WANTED TO ASK ME ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

...YOU HAVE IT.
...I NEED YOUR HELP.
I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
I DON'T WANT TO ACCUSE ANYONE.
...PRINCE KAI.
I'LL GLADLY LEND YOU A HAND— IF YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE MINE...

LUNGE
!!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE.
MOVE EVEN A MUSCLE, AND YOU'LL LOSE YOUR PRECIOUS PRINCE.
WHIP
...NH...
PRINCE KAI!
MAXI-MILIAN!
TOSS THEM ALL IN THE CELLAR!
AND SEARCH THEM FOR CONCEALED WEAPONS!

ひょ
SNATCH
いっ
OH MY.
WHAT'S A LITTLE BRAT DOING CARRYING A RIDING CROP?
MM? THIS ONE'S GOT SOMETHING IN HIS INNER POCKET...
DIDN'T THINK YOU HONESTLY KNEW A ROYAL.
HMPH!
HEH HEH...
AND I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I AM A GROWN MAN.
THAT IS A TEACHER'S POINTER.
HMM. I LIKE IT! IT'S MINE NOW.
SWISH SWISH
HARRUMPH!
YOU'RE COMIN' WITH ME!


WE ONLY TOOK YOU IN FOR YOUR MANSION.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO JOIN OUR "FAMILY," YOU'D BETTER PROVE YOU'RE WORTH IT.
YANK
DON'T GET COCKY, BOY.
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!
I'LL USE THOSE MUGS TO SQUEEZE A FORTUNE FROM THE ROYAL PALACE! I SWEAR IT!
.....
YES, SIR!
DON'T MESS UP.
WE'LL STAY UP HERE AND HELP OURSELVES TO A ROUND OF DRINKS.

JANGLE
JANGLE
WOOOW... WHAT A BIG CELLAR...IT'S A MAGNIFICENT MANSION... EVEN UNDER-GROUND...
HRMP!
.....
DON'T SAY THAT! I'D FOLLOW YOUR HIGHNESS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH TO PROTECT YOU!
MY LATE MENTOR WOULD'VE WANTED ME TO!
HEY, YOU.
WE'VE KILLED HIM OFF?
I DO WONDER WHAT'S BECOME OF HIM
SORRY...THIS IS ALL BECAUSE I SAID I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM...

DULL BOYS, AREN'T YOU?
AND SO VERY GULLIBLE.
TAK
YOU CANNOT DO THIS TO A PRINCE AND PALACE STAFF...
...AND EXPECT TO GET AWAY WITH IT.
HMPH.
HIGH RISK YIELDS A HIGH RETURN.
I EXPECT TO COLLECT A RANSOM OF THREE-HUNDRED-THOUSAND FLORINS FOR THE PRINCE AND FIFTEEN-HUNDRED FLORINS FOR HIS LACKEYS.
FIFTEEN-HUNDRED FLORINS!? THAT'S MORE THAN THREE TIMES MY ANNUAL WAGE...
IT'S THE ENTIRE BUDGET OF A SMALL NATION...
DIZZY
DIZZY
DIZZY
DIZZY
MAYBE SO, BUT THE PALACE WILL GIVE IN TO OUR DEMANDS ONCE I SEND THEM PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF.
THE PITTANCE SOME LITTLE NEWSPAPER OFFERED ME WILL BE NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS FORTUNE.
DON'T TELL ME HE...

ALWAYS GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT, ALWAYS BLESSED WITH THE BEST... AND TAKING IT ALL FOR GRANTED. SUCH ARROGANT, ARROGANT PRINCES.
IT'S NOT SO FAR FROM THE TRUTH, IS IT!?
THIS ARTICLE...
...IS AWFULLY CONVINCING FOR A STORY I MADE UP ON THE SPOT, ISN'T IT?
WHY, YOU...!
I MUST ASK— HOW DO YOU INTEND TO EXPLAIN THIS TO YOUR FAMILY WHEN THEY RETURN HOME?
...NH...
PRINCE KAI.

I DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY.
AFTER I WAS EXPELLED ...
...THEY TOLD ME THAT I'D DISGRACED THEM...THAT I WAS WORTH-LESS.
THEY GAVE ME HELL, AND THEN THEY RAN FOR THE HILLS, SHIVERING IN THEIR BOOTS FOR FEAR OF WHAT THEIR NOBLE "FRIENDS" WOULD THINK.
KA-CHIK
—I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT A "FAMILY" LIKE THAT.
NOW, LOOK YOUR BEST FOR THE CAMERA!
EVEN IF THEY PAY THE RANSOM, I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU'LL LIVE THROUGH THIS.
THIS MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE THE FINAL PHOTOGRAPH YOU'LL EVER BE IN.

FLASH
BLEEEH...
YAY!
I'VE NO OBLIGATION TO GIVE YOU A GOOD PHOTOGRAPH.
YAY, I GET TO BE IN A PHOTO WITH A PRINCE!
I'M DEFINITELY BRAGGING TO MY FOLKS LATER!
BAAAH...
RELAXED BY THE PROFESSOR'S FACE
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME!?
HFF!
HUFF!
...H... HAVE IT YOUR WAY...
FLASH
GAAAH! GRR! NGRAAH!
GAH! YOU MADE FUNNY FACES AGAIN!?
FLASH
IT WON'T SCARE ANYONE IF YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE ON A PICNIC!
BLAARGH...
FLASH
BLEEGH...

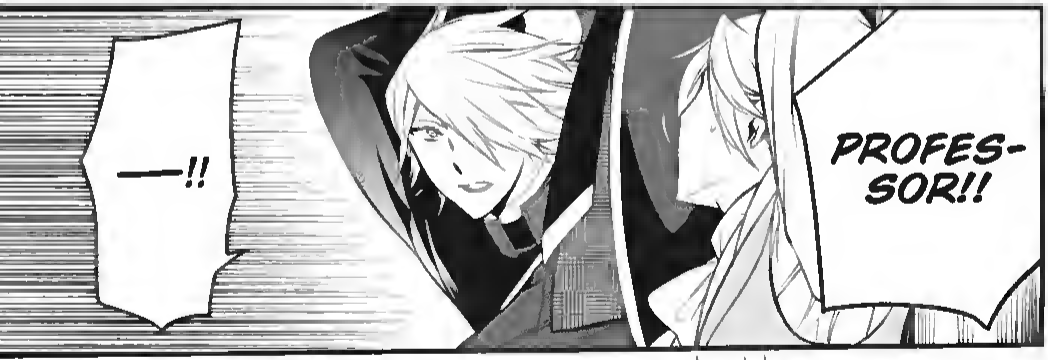
ZWISH
!
.....
STROKE
I'M UNDER ORDERS NOT TO DAMAGE OUR MONEY-MAKER ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY...
...BUT A PRINCE TREMBLING IN FEAR WOULD MAKE FOR A FANTASTIC PHOTO-GRAPH.
TCH!
DOESN'T EVEN FLINCH...
.....
PRINCE KAI!

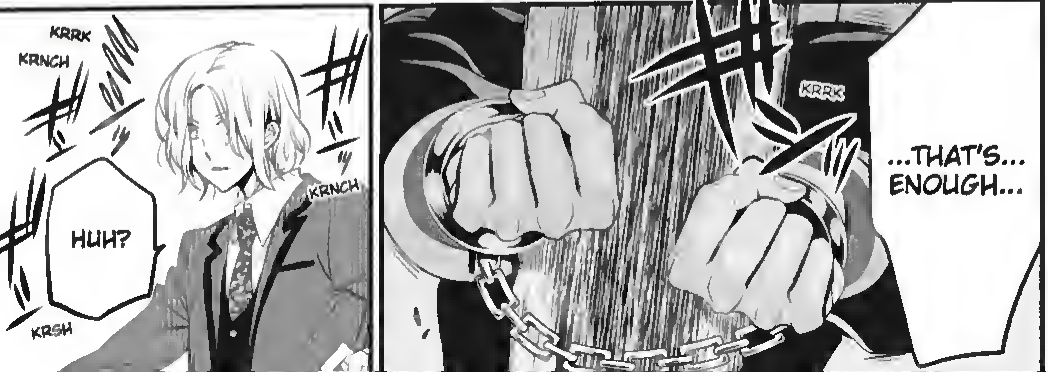
WELL, THEN...
...DOES THIS SCARE YOU?
YANK

!!

...KH!
CLENCH
STOP ...!
.....!

WELL, WELL, WELL... LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE THE LITTLE TEACHER GET HURT!
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
...HOW CAN I RESIST!?


——!!
PROFES-SOR!!


KRRK
KRNCH
HUH?
KRNCH
KRSH
KRRK
...THAT'S... ENOUGH...

I SAID, THAT'S ENOUGH ...!!!
KRRSH
KRRK
KRNCH

!!
WHAAA ...!!?
WHOOM
YEEK ...!!

PRINCE KAI.

.....NH.

...PROM-
ISED...
...TEACHER...
...I
WOULDN'T
HURT
ANYONE...

FOR MY SAKE...
...AND FOR...
...EVERY-ONE ELSE...
...TCH.
HA HA... IMBE-CILE.
THEN I WON'T HOLD BACK— OH, I'LL MAKE IT HURT!!

CLANG
YOUR HAND-CUFFS...
WHEN IN THE BLAZES...?
.....!

KACHAK
...CAN BE UNLOCKED EFFORTLESSLY, SO LONG AS ONE IS AFFORDED A LITTLE TIME.
A TOY LIKE THIS...
KACHAK
YOU ARE A MOST PITIFUL CHILD.
ONE CANNOT CHOOSE HIS FAMILY.
YET IF ONLY YOU HAD AT LEAST MET TEACHERS OR COMPANIONS IN WHOM YOU COULD TRUST...
RATTLE
DAMMIT... GET THESE THINGS OFF ME...!
BE A GOOD BOY AND CEASE THIS TANTRUM, PLEASE.
IT IS MY POLICY TO NEVER LAY A HAND ON A CHILD.
RATTLE

HEY, FUCHS.
WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET?
—WHAT THE...?
HOW DID YOU...!!?

STARE
INSPECT
INSPECT
INSPECT

...YOU APPEAR TO BE YOUNGER THAN I, SIRS.
YOUNGER !?
HOWEVER, AS ADULTS, YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER THAN THIS...

I DO BELIEVE YOU ARE IN NEED OF SOME RE-EDUCATION.
NOW...
...LET US BEGIN YOUR LESSON.

SHWP
YOUR HIGHNESS, HIDE HERE—
—WAIT, YOU'RE NOT HAVING THE GUARD DO THE FIGHTING!?
HUUUH?
MAXIMILIAN, SEE TO PRINCE KAI.
YES, SIR!
TAKK
LUNGE
THE OTHER TWO VERMIN CAN DIE FOR ALL I CARE!
GRAB THE PRINCE!
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

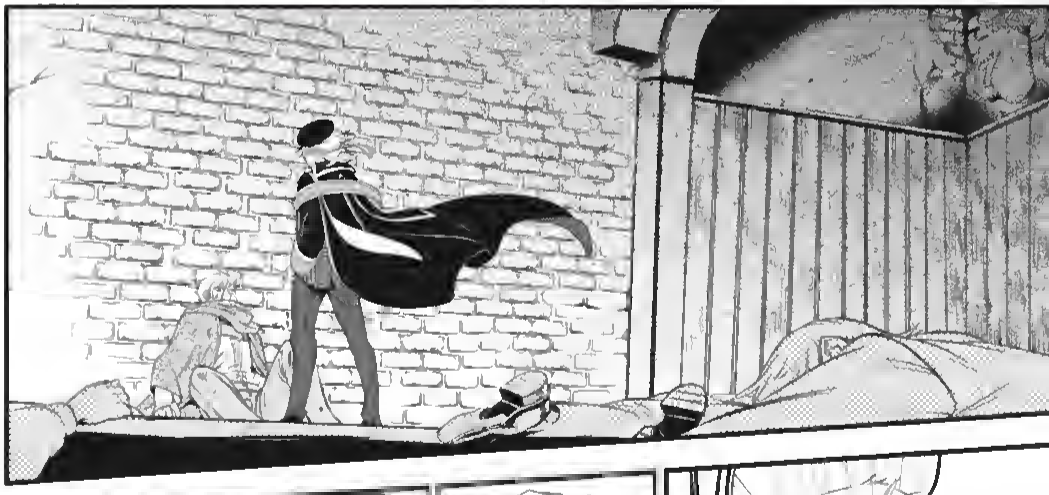
WHA ...?
GRAB
YOU LITTLE ...!
WHUD
GAH!
KA-CLICK
SHOOT HIM!!
MAKING US LOOK LIKE FOOLS...

SNATCH
SKIIIII
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
EEE!
WHACK
WHACK
GWAH!
AAAAH!
N... NO—
!
THUD
TUMBLE

SMASH
"I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME ONE THING."
"—HEINE.
...ULP!
SLUMP

"BUT IF EVER MY SONS ARE IN DANGER...
"YOU WILL KEEP THE OLD YOU SLUMBERING IN THE DEPTHS OF YOUR HEART.

"...THEN YOU MAY....."



A TEACHER'S ROD IS NEVER TO BE USED IN SUCH A SAVAGE MANNER.
SQUEEZE
GRAB
D-DAMN YOU...!
SWISH
SWISH

.....
...WHAT...
...ARE YOU...?
CATCH
KICK
...I AM...
KA-CLICK
...THE ROYAL TUTOR.
JAM

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GIVE YOU YOUR LESSON.

PANG

SPROIIING
...I CERTAINLY CANNOT BEHAVE VIOLENTLY FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN SELF-DEFENSE.
AFTER PRINCE KAI WORKED SO HARD TO STAY HIS HAND...
BE GRATEFUL TO HIS HIGHNESS.

ほ——GAPE——せん
...I-I DIDN'T GET EVEN A SEC-OND...
...IN THE SPOT-LIGHT ...
...GH.
SLUMP
.....

BAM
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HAVE YOU BEEN HARMED!?
YOUR HIGH-NESS!! PROFES-SOR!!!

YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD!?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE!
BEAM
LUDWIG! WHY, YOU'RE ALIVE!

GIVE US YOUR WORST, SCOUN-DRELS!
AHEM! ALL IS WELL NOW THAT WE ARE HERE!

...I WAS ON THE ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE, FIGHTING OFF MY CAPTORS AND RUSHING BACK TO THE PALACE FOR BACK-UP.
WHILE YOU WERE DAW-DLING ABOUT...
GRMBL
GRMBL
GRMBL
GRMBL
DURR
DURR

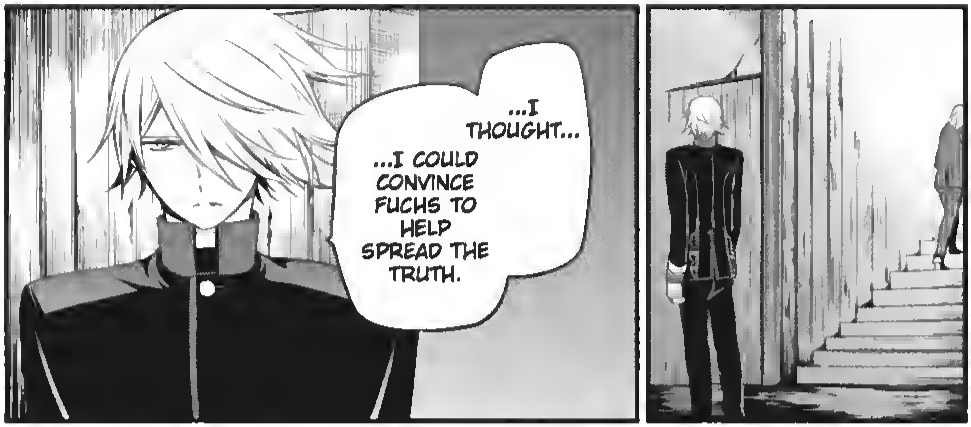
UH...
HUH?
WELL DONE, LUDWIG.
PLEASE SEE THAT THEY ARE TURNED OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES.
WH...
WHAAA...?
YANK
UP WITH YOU!
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE PROFESSOR! RIGHT?
WH-WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED HERE...?
POKE
POKE
COME NOW, THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.
.....

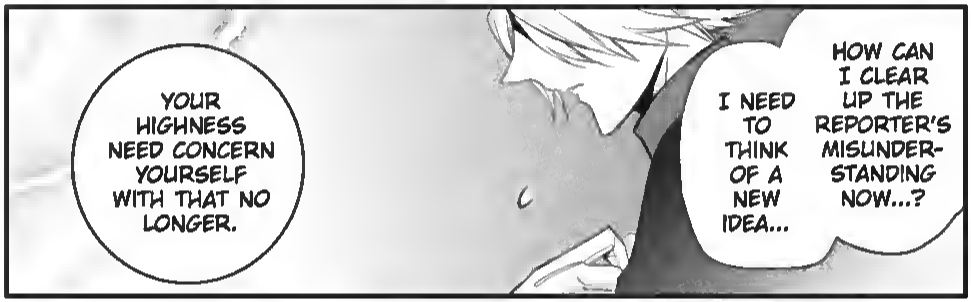
...WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
.....
IT'S NOT AS IF I WAS RISKING LOSING ANYTHING IN THE EVENT WE WERE CAUGHT.
I WAS ALREADY ALONE...
I BET YOU'RE DREADFULLY PLEASED TO SEE ME BEING DRAGGED AWAY, AREN'T YOU!?
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, YOU LOUSE!
.....
...ONE DAY...

ONE DAY, YOU SHOULD COME WORK AT THE PALACE.
YOUR HIGH-NESS!?
...COME AGAIN?
.....
YOUR HIGHNESS! UMM, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HE WAS HOLDING US FOR RANSOM NOT A MOMENT AGO!
IF YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON JOINING THE MILITARY... IT'S THE BEST PLACE...TO PUT ALL OF YOUR STUDIES TO USE...
...YOU SHOULD TRY TO JOIN THE PALACE GUARD.
...WHEN YOU'VE PAID FOR YOUR CRIME...

.....
...I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU.
ARE YOU SAYING... YOU'D FORGIVE ME AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE...?
THE EMPTY-HEADED FELLOW IS RIGHT.
E-EMPTY-HEADED ...!?
...TO START OVER IF THEY WANT TO.
BUT... ...I THINK... EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT...
AS AN HEIR TO THE THRONE OF THE KINGDOM OF GRANZREICH...
...I BELIEVE OUR NATION SHOULD GIVE PEOPLE SECOND CHANCES.

COME ALONG, NOW.
TUG
.....
FROM WHOM DID YOU FIRST HEAR THE RUMORS IMPLICATING THE ROYAL FAMILY?
MAY I MAKE ONE INQUIRY OF YOU?
...I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.
.....
I SHOULD MUCH LIKE TO KNOW, ASSUMING THAT WAS NOT ANOTHER LIE.
...I THINK... IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MY PARENTS...


...I THOUGHT...
...I COULD CONVINCE FUCHS TO HELP SPREAD THE TRUTH.

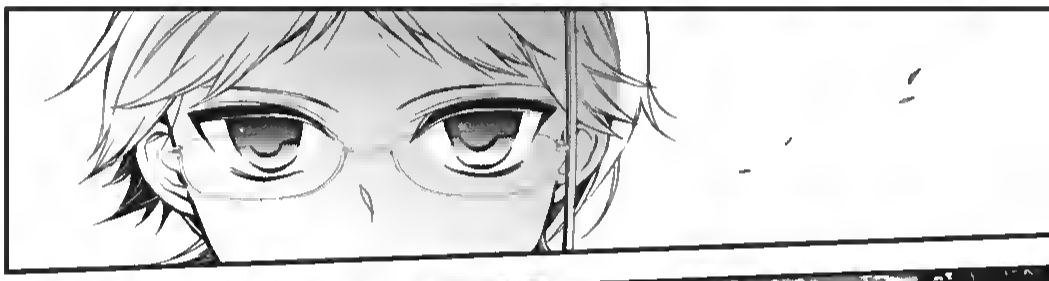

YOUR HIGHNESS NEED CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THAT NO LONGER.
I NEED TO THINK OF A NEW IDEA...
HOW CAN I CLEAR UP THE REPORTER'S MISUNDER-STANDING NOW...?

... TEACHER?

...THE MISINFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR HIGHNESS WILL BE STRAIGHTENED OUT.
...VERY SOON...

THEY FINALLY PUBLISHED A CORRECTED ARTICLE, DID THEY?
SHUT

AS WORD OF FUCHS'S ARREST SPREADS...
...THE PRINCES' ILL REPUTE SHOULD IMPROVE NATURALLY.



...COUNT ROSEN-BERG...
I HAD A FEELING YOU WOULD COME HERE.
DOES IT SEEM AS THOUGH THIS BUSINESS WITH PRINCE KAI WILL HAVE A HAPPY ENDING?
...YES. THERE IS NAUGHT TO WORRY ABOUT.
IMPRESSIVE INDEED, ROYAL TUTOR.

IN PRINCE EINS'S CASTLE.

WHY DON'T YOU AND I HAVE A LITTLE CHAT, HMM?

To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapter 29

Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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